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今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY
ISSUE NO. 739
AUGUST 14, 2015
BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN
3.00元



FAMILIAR FACES

TRADITIONAL CHINESE OPERA CHARACTERS ARE
REVIVED IN PAINTER WU SHUANG'S WORKS. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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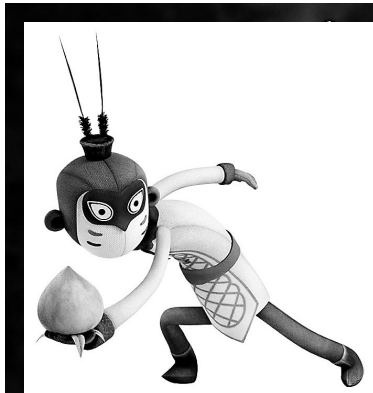


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ISSN: 2095-9591 ■ 刊号: CN11-0120 ■ 邮发代号: I-364 ■ Overseas Code No: D1545 ■ Subscriptions: (010) 6590 2511
Advertisements: (010) 6590 2515 ■ E-mail: info@beijingtoday.com.cn ■ Online Distribution Agents: Spider.com.cn and Kankan.cn
Published under the auspices of the Office of the Beijing Municipal Government. Run by Beijing Youth Daily Group.

ISSN 2095-9591
00739
9 772095 959006



ENTERTAINMENT



CFP Photos

Monkey King Hero is Back Opens Road for New Financing Strategies

BY DIAO DIAO

Seven hundred million yuan in box office sales is uncommon for a movie, especially a Chinese cartoon, to achieve. But *Monkey King Hero is Back* did it in less than a month since its release on July 10.

Based on the classic novel *Journey to the West*, *Monkey King Hero is Back* assigns contemporary humor to the beloved old characters. The 3D effects were not great, but the movie's real success is in the way it has managed to gather public investment during all the

stages of its production and promotion.

Seeking public investment for a movie has been a popular strategy in recent years in China. Moviemakers sell so-called "public chips" on platforms such as Yulebo, which is owned by Alibaba. After the movie's release, chip buyers receive returns on their investment depending on the movie's box office sales.

The first movie to try this strategy was *Tiny Times 4*, in 2013. The movie was released this year and offered investors a 7 percent return, which was considered disappointing.

Another movie, *The Golden Era*, used Baidu's fundraising platform, Baifayouxi. On Baifayouxi, the return on investment varies according to the movie's box office sales. If the sales are below 200 million yuan, the rate is 8 percent, but if they reach 600 million yuan, the return rate goes up to 16 percent. This system attracted many investors, but unfortunately the film didn't even reach 100 million yuan in sales.

Compared with these two pioneering attempts of the "public chips" industry,

Monkey King Hero is Back has used a different targeting strategy that has proved more effective.

Lu Wei, one of the movie's producers, said that 89 people have invested a total of 7.8 million yuan in the movie. The company made a point out of persuading parents with young children to invest.

The moviemakers expected box office sales to reach 500 million yuan. In that case, each investor would have earned 250,000 yuan. That amount is certainly larger now with a box office of 700 million yuan.

Producer Liu Zhijiang said that the marketing benefits have far exceeded the investment because the investors in their turn persuaded friends and family to go see the movie.

Next, the team took advantage of social media platforms after the movie's release.

They collaborated with WeChat Tickets, which offered a 20 percent discount on tickets, and they partnered up with more than 1,000 cinemas for an increased number of showings every day.

And that's not all. Following Disney and DreamWorks' example, *Monkey King Hero is Back* has released a merchandise line, including toys and bags. Merchandise sales reached 11.8 million yuan on the first day.

Even if *Monkey King Hero is Back* doesn't become a cult movie, its strategies for financing, social media and marketing might have a lasting impact on the film industry. ■

For Gao Xiaosong, Artistic Talent Comes First

BY DIAO DIAO



There's a popular joke circulating about Gao Xiaosong, a controversial celebrity in China who published his new book, *Xiaosong Pedia*, in June.

The joke is that when Gao Xiaosong and Li Yifeng, a generally considered handsome actor, arrived at the airport at the same time, fans put down their cameras when they saw Gao walking out instead of Li. Joking aside, Gao has twice as many Weibo followers as Li.

Gao doesn't exactly fit Chinese beauty standards, but his talents, experience and achievements have made him popular.

Most Chinese know the famous campus folk song *My Old Classmate*, but few knew Gao was its composer, at least not until he started appearing on TV a few years ago.

It's not surprising that Gao has 37 million Weibo followers if you consider his background.

After he graduated from Beijing No.4 Middle School, one of the capital's top high schools, Gao enrolled in Tsinghua University, majoring in Electronic Engineering. He quit after two years because he discovered he didn't like being a scien-

tist. He started studying directing at Beijing Film Academy.

During this time, Gao wrote many campus folk songs, which became very popular, such as *Youth Without Regrets* and *Bro Who Slept in Upper Bed*.

Later in the 1990s, Gao began to make music videos for other singers and write articles and scripts. He finished the script for *Where Have All the Flowers Gone* in 1997 and directed the movie in 1999.

Gao became well-known after he was invited to be a judge on the talent show *Super Girl* in 2009. However, he only started being regarded as a musician and composer in 2012, when he participated in the talk show *Xiao Shuo* produced by Youku.

It was on this program that Gao revealed his knowledge about culture and history as well as his skills as musician and director.

In 2014, Gao joined iQIYI for another talk show called *Xiaosong Qitan*, which attracted more than 100 million views in the first week. On this show, Gao talks about topics ranging from astron-

omy and geography to Chinese history and foreign issues.

Due to the show's success, Gao has decided to continue sharing his thoughts by writing them down.

Gao begins his new book, *Xiaosong Pedia*, with a chapter about the FIFA World Cup and then goes on to introduce the flags of some European countries. He dwells on the religious, cultural and historical aspects of these countries and even describes some of their unusual characteristics, which he calls "bad temper."

In another chapter, Gao describes aspects of Ming dynasty's history in a humorous way. His writing is simple and easy to follow.

Gao's book is different from history textbooks, and it offers an alternative to people who don't know much about the world.

Although Gao's six months prison time for drunk driving and his divorce from his wife who was 19 years his junior have made him a controversial celebrity, it's undeniable that his talent makes him stand out. ■

MUSIC



Ricky Sixx: 26 and Life to Go

BY WANG YAN

“Ricky was a young boy. He had a heart of stone.”

The classic single “18 And Life” from the American band Skid Row is where Ricky Sixx took the first part of his stage name from. People who are familiar with American rock ‘n’ roll will easily guess where the second part of the name originates from -- Nikki Sixx was the bassist and primary songwriter of the band Motley Crue.

Ricky, by his real name Wang Heyong, is a 26-year-old who grew up in a village near Beijing’s neighboring city Shijiazhuang. His career revolves around Western influences. He is a notable presence on Beijing’s underground music scene, but under his flamboyant fashion style and stage act, Ricky is a genuine young man.

“In my early 20s I was in Rustic, and that was one of the ‘craziest’ bands in Beijing,” he said. “Most bands back then didn’t pay attention to their stage performance; they just stood there and sang, but Rustic was bold. We did whatever we wanted, and we dressed however we liked.”

Rustic was a legend in China’s music industry. In 2010 the punk-rock band won

the title of “Best New Band In the World” at the Global Battle of the Bands (GBOB). For the young band, that was a dream come true. The band whose members hail from rural China beat bands from 19 other countries in a showdown in London. It was their first time abroad.

“We first won in Beijing, then in Hong Kong, then we beat other countries in London,” Ricky said. “We were totally shocked because we were nothing. All we did was learn from Western bands. And we were trying to play their music, but we won, in the UK.”

Rustic took home a gold trophy and international fame, but like with other young bands, along with success came arrogance, cockiness and conflict.

In 2011, Ricky left Rustic.

“Making music should be fun,” he said. “But as I grew older I couldn’t feel the energy anymore. Also, I had grown up and couldn’t feel like the old crazy Rick whenever I dyed my hair blond, wore heavy makeup and paired leather with leopard prints.”

Ricky’s current fashion style is still inspired by Western hippie culture. He dresses like he’s ready to join a music festi-

val, but his outfits are more subtle than in the past.

Along with adjusting his fashion style, Ricky has also started to explore different music genres. He listens to Led Zeppelin and has become very interested in Prince’s music.

“I think Prince is the greatest musician ever,” he said.

Prince’s music has inspired Ricky on many different levels. The singles he has released with his new band, Click 15, “Steal Your Love For Me” and “W.N.L.H.,” are reminiscent of Prince’s funk, disco beats. The 26-year-old is not trying to hide that fact.

“I’ve been asking myself whether I’m just mimicking other people,” Ricky said. “I wanted to do my own music, but if you think about it, there is no such thing as ‘your own music.’ All the songs we have today are based on what was achieved by previous musicians. All the music we play now was played in the 1950s and 1960s. The only thing that changed is the technology that we use in the music industry.

“As long as the music comes from your heart, and as long as you are feeling your music, then it is yours,” Ricky added.

Most of Ricky’s songs are in English, and he is reluctant to write Chinese lyrics because

he believes singing blues, jazz or funk in Chinese is really hard. He believes the language is too harsh for the melody and that most blues songs written in Chinese are bad.

And unlike other contemporary Chinese musicians, Ricky is also not keen on mixing Chinese elements into his music.

“I think modern music is Western music,” he said. “Traditional Chinese music has no chord, only five music scales. Even our national anthem is written in a Western way, so why bother?”

Other than his current band, Click 15, Ricky owns a guitar store in Beijing’s Hutong area.

“You can’t make ends meet by making underground music alone, and I have high standards for my instruments, so I have to find ways to earn extra money,” he said.

Ricky says he doesn’t know whether he will pursue music as a lifelong career. He is afraid that one day he won’t find anything to inspire him and he may lose interest in music altogether.

But Ricky is still young, and music might not “keep him clean,” like the Skid Row song says, but it will definitely “keep his motor running.” ■



LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world’s most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week’s live performances!

iaopu @ 69 Cafe

Xiaopu is a young Uighur man who used to work at a community office while playing in a band. But he decided to quit his stable job and start out on a music tour. Xiaopu likes Nick Drake, and he combines the English musician’s folk attitude on life with his smalltime music dream.

☉ Aug. 15, 9 p.m.-11 p.m.

📍 109 Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng

💎 50 yuan

Her Bright Skies @ Yugong Yishan

This is the first time the Swedish band Her Bright Skies comes to China on a national tour. Founded in 2005, the band released its first album, *A Sacrament; Ill City*, three years later, drawing the attention of local media. In 2010, their second album, *Causing A Scene*, won them the chance to perform on stage with some famous hardcore rock bands. Now the band is touring seven Chinese cities with their new album, *Prodigal Son*, which was released in May.

☉ Aug. 14, 8 p.m.-11 p.m.

📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

💎 80 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (at door)

Lin Tianran @ Slow Living

Lin Tianran is a music fan from picturesque Lijiang, Yunnan province. Lin started his first band in 2001 with all the members younger than 18 years old. His second band was founded in 2003, when he was in middle school. The third band was a failure. But Lin didn’t give up on his music dream. He came to Beijing in 2006 to study at Beijing Normal University, and he took part in campus singing competitions. He also joined the neofolk band Bloody Woods and released his own music as well.

☉ Aug. 15, 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

📍 73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng

💎 40 yuan (pre sale), 50 yuan (at door)



Chat @ Lanxi Bar

The bands He’er, HongriBand and DaoN will come to Lanxi Bar for a music “chat.” The He’er vocalist has a hoarse voice, which as a child brought him criticism from his music teacher. But He’er was undeterred and released his first album in 2015. Hongri Band comes from the grasslands of Inner Mongolia. DaoN plays a combination of rock, blues and folk.

☉ Aug. 15, 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

📍 183 Jiugulou Dajie, Xicheng

💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)



ARTISTS



The Monkey King

Traditional Chinese Opera in Modern Age

BY SHU PENGQIAN



Love in the City



Motherhood



Bent Blade

Traditional Chinese opera wouldn't be regarded as an exciting pastime by most young people. But Wu Shuang loves it so much that he has integrated it into his art.

The exquisite costumes, dramatic facial makeup and interesting stories in traditional operas have compelled Wu to adapt them into his paintings.

"People who are born in the 1980s and grow up in the south seldom like the traditional Chinese opera, except for me," the 35-year-old artist who was born in Chuxiong City, Yunnan province said. "I like the way stories are narrated in Chinese opera."

Many traditional Chinese operas are adapted from ancient novels or legends that the public might recognize in Wu's paintings. But Wu removes the characters from their traditional settings and has them perform in a modern environment. Xu Xian and Bai Suzhen, two characters from the opera *Lady White Snake*, which is adapted from Qing Dynasty writer Feng Menglong's eponymous novel, meet at a crossing in Dabeyao, Chaoyang district, Beijing. Tang Seng, the Monkey King's teacher in the Chinese classical novel *Journey to the West*, is being nagged by a female opera artist in front of Sidong Restaurant in Houhai, Beijing. And Jiang Gan, a scholar from the ancient Chinese book *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, which was written by Luo Guanzhong in the Ming Dynasty, is plotting with another character by the side of Jintailu Road in Beijing. Wu integrates modern and ancient elements into his paintings, creating a time-travel effect.

"Viewers are like my confidants," Wu said. "Their first impression of my works is important."

Thus, he prefers to let viewers decide whether these images are an expression of cultural integration or cultural conflict.

The *Chinese Opera* series was created during the time Wu lived in Beijing.

Before arriving in China's capital, Wu had lived in the south his entire life. In 2005, he began his studies at the Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University. This decision represented a milestone in his career. The bustling metropolis inspired him to create his most famous works.

However, in the beginning Wu's life in Beijing wasn't easy. He was a *Beipiao* – a proper noun that describes Chinese who are not local Beijingers and who have to work hard



The Artist Wu Shuang

to live in the city.

"I had no friend in Beijing nor much money at the time," Wu said. "I felt so lonely and worried."

This negative mentality has had an obvious impact on his *Chinese Opera* series.

Violent scenes, such as flames in a battlefield or fighter jets, occur frequently in his creations.

"These pictures are a vivid metaphor of my state of mind at that moment," he said.

Nevertheless, Wu didn't give up and persisted in pursuing his dream. Now, as he recollects the past, he doesn't regret his Beijing experience. "If I could turn back the time, I would do it again," he said.

Wu left Beijing in 2009 to become an art teacher at BeiHai College of BeiHang University in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. In the southwestern city, he began to create another series, *The Monkey King is a Girl*, a continuation of his *Chinese Opera* series.

Wu had included the Monkey King in many of the paintings in his last series, including "Palm-leaf Fan," "I Am Angry" and "Fly Higher." But he did not consider doing an exclusive series on the monkey until he listened to a song one day.

"When I was listening to the English song 'God is a Girl,' the *Journey to the West* suddenly came to mind," Wu said. "The Monkey King often turns into a girl with the use of his magic and protects his teacher Tang Seng from demons who disguise as pretty women. It is interesting, and I wonder if it is possible that the Monkey King actually is a girl."

After not being able to get rid of the seemingly absurd idea all day, Wu put it into practice. He painted "Wounded Wukong," "The Story about the Golden Pistol" and "Soldier with Sweater," a group of paintings that have started the series *The Monkey King is a Girl*.

As an artist's living conditions change, his or her perspective on art may change as well. The once ambitious Wu who pursued novel painting forms now focuses on perfecting his painting techniques. "Now, I put much of my energy into strengthening my basic painting skills," he said. "I don't mean creativity is not critical anymore. I just think a perfect painter should possess firm painting skills first and create new painting styles second."

He added, "I expect myself to be a perfect artist one day." ■

http://artand.cn/wushuang

A TRAVEL



Photo by nipic.com

American author Peter Hessler used to wake up by dawn and from his desk in his Beijing home listen to neighbors chatting in the street. Soon, there would be street vendors selling beer, rice and vinegar.

"The sounds are soothing, a reminder that even if I never left my doorway again life would be sustainable, albeit imbalanced. I would have cooking oil, soy sauce, and certain vegetables and fruit in season. In winter, I could buy strings of garlic. A vender of toilet paper would pedal through every day. There would be no shortage of coal. Occasionally, I could eat candied crab apple," he wrote in his 2006 article "Hutong Karma," which inspired many people to find a home in Beijing's hutongs.

Through centuries, writers have found inspiration in this city. They've created literary masterpieces or influential articles at their desks, while listening to outside noises, enjoying the breeze in their courtyards or witnessing change in their neighborhoods.

Some of Beijing's most famous writers, both Chinese and Western, have lived downtown. Their old homes are often within walking distance from one another – a worthwhile trip, laden with stories of the city's transformation.

Peter Hessler: Xiaoju'er Hutong

Fifteen years ago, Hessler's hutong, Xiaoju'er Hutong, situated in the vicinity of Jiadaokou Street, was a rustic alley where people lived in communion. The author of three acclaimed books about China, *River Town*, *Oracle Bones* and *Country Driving*, recalls the atmosphere.

In the early 2000s, in preparation for the Olympics, the government built a modern toilet at the head of Xiaoju'er hutong, Hessler writes. The change was so dramatic that residents made it their gathering place. They put old couches in front of the toilet and assembled there to chat, grill meat and watch TV.

Today, the street leading to Hessler's hutong – South Lougu Alley – is probably the most crowded commercial alley in Old Beijing. But once you walk around the corner into the small hutong, the noises dissipate and are replaced by sounds of

Writers' Homes Tell Stories of Old and New Beijing

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



Photo by CFP



Photo by mafengwo.cn



Photo by bj.straits-media.com

residents working and talking inside their courtyards. People still gather on couches in front of the toilet.

Mao Dun: 13 Houyuan'ensi Hutong

Less than a 5-minute walk from Xiaoju'er Hutong, you can visit the residence of famous Chinese writer Mao Dun, by his real name Shen Yanbing (1896-1981). Mao started out as an English-language editor at a Shanghai publication. In 1920, he translated the Soviet Union's constitution, which later became the

basis for the Communist Party of China's constitution. Mao was the first writer to join the party and in 1949 became the People Republic of China's first minister of culture. His best-known works are *Spring Silkworms* and *Midnight*.

Mao lived in Houyuan'ensi Hutong from 1974 until his death in 1981. His residence has been transformed into a small museum. The buildings surrounding its front courtyard are sitting rooms and libraries, including rooms that contain hundreds of Mao's manuscripts and letters. Mao lived in the

main house in the back courtyard. The objects and furniture inside have remained basically untouched since his death. Newspaper clippings and books are piled on a bedside table, and the calendar on the desk is open to the last page Mao personally turned over: Feb. 19, 1981.

Guo Moruo: 18 Qianhai Xijie Street

Author Guo Moruo (1892-1978) lived in a traditional courtyard west of Sichahai Lake. He is known for his historical plays, poems, archeological and government work. In 1927, he moved to Japan, where he studied Chinese ancient history and published works on inscriptions on oracle bones and bronze vessels, supporting communist doctrines on ancient China. He returned to his home country in 1937 and became a prominent scholar and official. He is best known for his poetry collection *The Goddesses* (1921) and the historical play *Qu Yuan* (1942).

Guo lived in the courtyard from 1963 until his death. The construction had been a prince's garden during the Qing dynasty. Many of Guo's manuscripts, books and documents are still kept at the house, which opened as a museum in 1988. Guo loved nature and reportedly planted many of the flowers and trees that still exist in the courtyard, including a ginkgo tree that he planted in 1954, when his wife was recovering in a hospital (The tree had been initially planted at a previous residence, but Guo moved it when the family relocated to the courtyard).

A bronze statue of Guo, created after his death, sits on the lawn facing the ginkgo tree. Outside the old courtyard, Sichahai Lake's shores are bursting with activity from the popular bars and restaurants of New Beijing.

Other Writers' Homes

Lu Xun (known for *A Madman's Diary*, *Nahan*, *Panghuang*): 19 Gongmenkou 2nd Alley, Xicheng, Beijing

Evan Osnos (known for *Age of Ambition*): Guoxue Hutong, Dongcheng, Beijing

Lao She (known for *Rickshaw Boy* and *Teahouse*): 19 Fengfu Hutong, Dongcheng, Beijing

ETCETERA

Abbreviations

BY DIAO DIAO

Xiǎo Què Xīng

Xiǎo Què Xīng is an abbreviation of a Chinese sentence that means, "The tiny things or moments that bring people happiness." The phrase first appeared in an essay by Japanese writer Haruki Murakami and originally meant "fleeting happiness." Chinese translator Lin Shaohua has said, "Every Xiao Que Xing can last for three seconds or a whole day."



Rán Bīng Luǎn

Rán Bīng Luǎn is the abbreviation of a sentence that expresses a superior attitude and could be translated into, "However, it's useless." The abbreviation is based on the sentence's Cantonese pronunciation, which is similar to other dialects in China's mainland. In Sichuan province, "Luǎn" is also used in a different expression, "Guān Nǐ Luǎn Shì," which means "It's none of your business." In Suzhou, Jiangsu province, "Luǎn" also stands for degree.



Chéng Huì Wán

Chéng Huì Wán means, "People like you who live in big cities are really creative and know how to play." It's an ironic expression directed at Chinese actress Zhang Xinyu, who at the opening ceremony of the 68th Cannes Film Festival wore an ample dress with green and red flowers. Netizens have said that the pattern on her dress is similar to traditional quilts made in Northeast China suburbs. While haute couture inspired by traditional prints is well-regarded in other countries, Chinese

were not impressed by Zhang's dress and were especially displeased with the red-and-green combination, which they consider tasteless. ■



Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing. You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. Can you recommend a good beauty massage spot? Anything in Chaoyang District? It would be perfect if I could find something between Dongzhimen and Sanlitun.

A. Actually there are a lot of beauty massage spots near Dongzhimen and Sanlitun. The Liangzi flagship store by Tuanjiehu offers professional massage and fitness services with a group-rate

price of 100 yuan. Puti, located across from the north gate of Gongti, has a quiet environment and pleasant incense. Massages that begin before 4 p.m. are priced 95 yuan.

Q. Can I drive in Beijing with a U.S. driver's license (if visiting)?

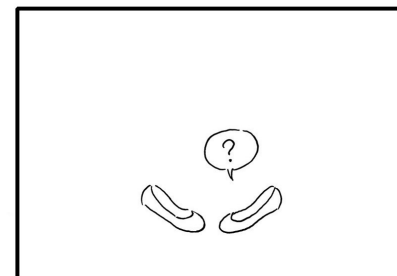
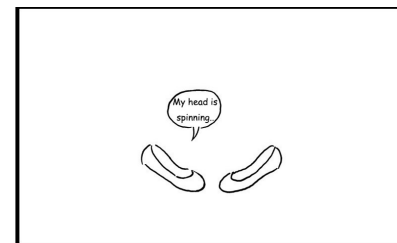
A. Now you can. You can be issued a temporary Chinese license if you're staying for less than three months. You can pick up the license at the airport (terminal 3) upon your arrival. You need to bring your original U.S. (not international) license and go downstairs in the terminal building to the traffic police office that issues temporary licenses.

Q. Hello, I'm a recent college graduate, and I would like to work as a teacher in China, preferably Beijing. I want to know some good websites to apply for jobs in Beijing and across China. I've mostly been using ecitieschina. Do you know any other good websites?

A. Websites like the Beijinger, City Weekend and Internations have good job listings for foreigners. If you're looking for a teaching job, you may send your resume and photos to bjeducationforall@live.com. They partner with reliable schools, and if you have the right qualifications, they will help you obtain a work visa. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANLW

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [tangocartoon](https://weibo.com/tangocartoon).

THE BEIJING TODAY HUMOR

Q. Why does my ex-girlfriend still follow me on Twitter?

A. To make sure that your life sucks after the breakup.

Q. Is there anything that gets cheaper these years?

A. Ren Min Bi.

Q. Why are people from northern China more straightforward than those from southern China?

A. It is too cold there. They are out of energy to linger over anything.

Q. Why did Microsoft not completely adapt Windows to Chinese consumers?

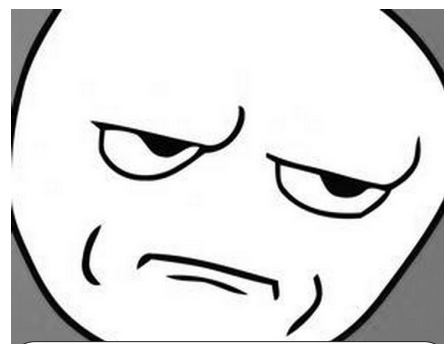
A. To prevent laymen from meddling with it.

Q. What were you thinking when I glanced at you in the crowd?

A. Do you want to hitchhike?

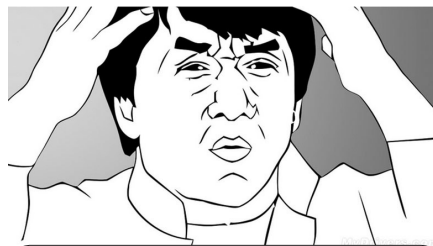
Q. Why are some guys still single at 35?

A. Maybe they've just gotten their PhD. (All the above Q&As come from Zhihu.)



Q. Why do girls not like one-night stands?

A. It's just that you are not the guy they would want to have a one-night stand with.



Q. How do you feel when people get tired of playing love games with others and decide to settle down with you?

A. What have I done to end up like this? I've never dug your ancestors' graves, have I?

(Context: Digging someone's ancestors' graves is one of the most malicious things a Chinese can consider doing.)

Q. What can you see when you look out the window?

A. The world I built for you.



Q. How can I avoid feeling disgusted when I brush my teeth?

A. Stop looking at the mirror!



Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



National Theatre Live: Of Mice and Men

Organized as part of the UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange, "National Theatre Live" is jointly held by the National Theatre of China and the National Theatre of England. The program expands the influences of outstanding theater productions by crossing the boundaries of time. The popular plays staged in London and New York will be played simultaneously at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art. We make sure that every audience member who walks into UCCA Art Cinema will experience a unique view of the stage. Also, high-quality equipment enables the camera slide rail, special features, and close-ups of the play to provide the audiences with a detailed audiovisual effect and reveal the unique charm of theater at the same time.

Golden Globe winner and Academy Award nominee James Franco (*127 Hours*, *Milk*) and Tony Award nominee Chris O'Dowd (*Bridesmaids*, *Girls*) star in the hit Broadway production *Of Mice And Men*, filmed on stage by National Theatre Live. This landmark revival of Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's play is a powerful portrait of the American spirit and a heartbreaking testament to the bonds of friendship.

⌚ 2-4:40 pm, August 15

📍 798 Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

🌐 ucca.org.cn

MUSIC



Her Bright Skies, China Tour

Consisting of Johan "Jaybee" Brodin, Nicals "Nikki" Sjostedt, Petter "Pete" Nils-

son, Jonas Guddmunson and Joakim "Jolle" Karlsson, Her Bright Skies is a Swedish post-hardcore band based in Jnkping. Their first CD was released in 2007 and is called *Beside Quiet Waters*.

Just one year later, they produced a full-length album called *A Sacrament; ill City*. The album was produced by District 19 Records. Their second full-length CD, called *Causing a Scene*, was released in 2010 and produced by the Swedish independent record label Panic & Action. That same year HBS played at Pier Pressure Festival together with Thirty Seconds to Mars, HIM, Pendulum and Paramore.

The band shared the stage with Swedish metalcore band and label mates Adept through Germany and with Bring Me the Horizon through Scandinavia. In June 2011 HBS shared the stage at Siesta Festival with Asking Alexandria, ...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead, August Burns Red, Adept, Bullet and many other bands.

⌚ 8-11 pm, August 14

📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu (100 meters west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway station), Dongcheng

💎 120 yuan (door), 80 yuan (presale)

☎ (010) 6404 2711

✉ info@yugongyishan.com



Anúna Beijing Concert

Anúna is an Irish choral group. In 1987, Dublin composer Michael McGlynn founded An Uaithne, a name which describes the three ancient types of Celtic music, Suantraí (lullaby), Geantraí (happy song) and Goltraí (lament).

One of the group's stated aims is to explore and redefine this music. AnUaithne became Anúna in 1991, and in 2010 adopted the name "Anúna Ireland's National Choir."

Most of the material they perform is written or arranged specifically for the group by Michael McGlynn. He also has reconstructed and arranged a substantial amount of early Irish music, which has been recorded by the group.

McGlynn's choral arrangements are written specifically for their combination of classically trained singers and untrained voices. Anúna do not work with a conductor in performance and move throughout the venue at different points in the concert. Their standard line-up is 12 to 14 singers.

⌚ 7:30-9:30 pm, August 21

📍 National Centre For The Performing Arts, 2 Chang'anJie, Xicheng

💎 80-280 yuan

☎ (010) 6655 0000

🌐 en.damai.cn/event/tickets_81972/

NIGHTLIFE



Black Moon Hafla – Under the Auspices of MamiWata

On this black moon of August 2015, we invite you to join in our hafla, or celebration, of the new moon. Through song, dance and poetry inspired by MamiWata, the African Goddess of Water, we will venture onto a mythical shore. In a sultry night of Afro-tribal belly dance fusion, the Lunatic Moires and friends will celebrate to the sound of an array of entrancing music, including African drumming and the experimental electronics of Sound Sculpture Workstation.

This moonless night is dedicated to MamiWata. Although often represented as a dangerously seductive mermaid, under her dark skin is a pure heart and soul, willing to advise those who seek answers. The dark moon is a time of meditation and introspection, so during our celebration and ceremony, we invite you to ask MamiWata for the answers you seek, and immerse yourself in her refreshing world of wonder, beats and trance on this hot August night.

⌚ 8:15 pm, August 14

📍 Meridan Space Building 8, C&C Park, No.77, Meishuguan Back Street, Chaoyang

💎 80 yuan at door



Audioeyes Featuring Guillaume & The Coutu Dumonts (Live)

Audioeyes started in Hackney (one of the coolest areas of London) in 2009. DJs Nassdak and Steve Longwill created this monthly concept combining music and visuals, and invited underground DJs and producers from the London scene to play.

Both residents worked more than six years at Fabric, where they grew as DJs, building their own styles under the influence of the greatest international DJs.

Six years ago, Nassdak moved to Beijing where he became the resident DJ of Migas. Since its opening day, he's brought forth his passion for music and understanding for a variety of genres to numerous nights - both indoors and under the city sky.

With Audioeyes he'll bring the same raw vibe and real underground Deep House sound of London to The Bar at Migas, with guest DJs bringing fresh underground sounds to ignite the dance floor.

⌚ 10 pm, August 14

📍 The bar at Migas, 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

💎 70 yuan at door

STAGE



Stage Swan Lake by Moscow Ballet Theatre

Swan Lake by Moscow Ballet Theatre in Beijing will be on at Beijing Exhibition Center on Aug. 15 and 16, 2015.

Moscow Ballet Theatre uses ice dancing and ballet to interpret this classic dance.

Ballet is a type of performance dance that originated in the Italian Renaissance courts of the 15th century. During the latter half of the 17th century, ballet became popular and professional in France and later in the whole world. The most important feature is the dancer's pivot, so ballet is also called toe-dancing.

⌚ 7:30 pm, August 15 to 16

📍 Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 XizhimenwaiDajie, Xicheng

💎 180-580 yuan

☎ (010) 6835 4455

FOODS



Photo by inlgsz.com

Dongbei Cuisine: The Food that Grows in the Garden

BY WANG YAN

A *Family From Northeastern China* (Dongbei Yijiaren) was a TV drama that aired in the 1990s, making people from northeastern China popular due to their endearing personality and plain language.

In the show, the five-person family is often portrayed around the dinner table. One of their frequent dishes is "scallion dipped in sweet flour paste." The simple dish illustrates the most evident characteristic of northeastern Chinese people and their cuisine: down to earth.

Geographically, the region consists mainly of three provinces: Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang. The region that borders Russia and North Korea and was occupied by the Japanese army during WWII enjoys a more diverse culture than central China.

Northeastern China is home to several ethnic groups, including Manchu and Chaoxian. The area historically belonged to the Manchu people, so its cuisine is still heavily influenced by Manchu cuisine.

Just like Manchu cuisine, northeastern Chinese cuisine relies on preserved food, often through pickling, due to the region's harsh winters and scorching and short growing seasons.

Pickled cabbage (suancai), which is similar to the European sauerkraut, is made by most households in northeastern China.

In one episode of *A Family From Northeastern China*, the mom of the family made pickled cabbage by placing a large rock on top of the lid of the container so that the cabbage inside was slowly pressed and fermented. This process is said to help create a distinct flavor. The cabbage is often used in cooking meat and rice noodles.

Suancai hot pot is another popular dish, especially among Manchu people. Unlike the Sichuan spicy hot pot, the suancai hot pot soup is made from good-quality pork bones. Adding suancai to the hot pot is said to neutralize the grease from the meat.

Just like in other northern cuisines, the

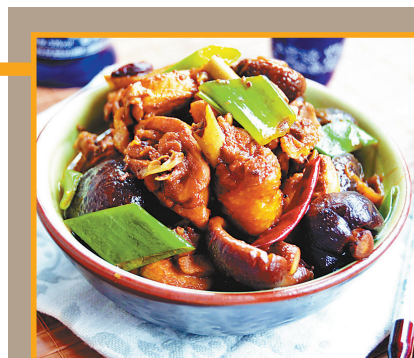


Photo by inlgsz.com



Photo by bbs.sz.com



Photo by mafengwo.com

staple crop used in northeastern Chinese cuisine is wheat. Locals consume more noodles and steamed buns, compared to rice in southern China.

Another distinct feature of Northeastern cuisine is the serving of more raw vegetables and, in coastal areas, raw seafood.

Heilongjiang province cuisine is known for its all-fish dinners, which include a lot of fresh water fish such as trout and sturgeon.

Liaoning cuisine has recently become popular and has won many awards in culinary arts competitions in China. It is heavily influenced by Beijing cuisine. Liaoning cuisine's main characteristics are its colors, strong tastes and soft food. Sweet and salty flavors are predominant.

Some dishes include pickled cabbage stir-fried with vermicelli, chicken and mushroom stew.

Other popular dishes in Northeastern cuisine include pork and chive dumplings, cumin caraway lamb and cornmeal congee. ■

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn To Make Suancai With Rice Noodles

BY WANG YAN

Suancai (pickled Chinese cabbage) with rice noodles is one of the most common dishes on dining tables in northeastern China. The savory dish is easy to make and is enjoyed by people across the country.

Ingredients:

- ☐ Suancai
- ☐ Pork
- ☐ Rice noodles
- ☐ Anise
- ☐ Salt
- ☐ Ginger
- ☐ Scallions
- ☐ Chicken essence (optional)



Photo by nicpic

The Steps:

1. Shred the pork into thin slices.
2. Stir-fry the pork slices; add ginger, anise and scallion into the wok.
3. Add some water, and boil for 10 minutes.
4. Pick out the boiled pork slices, and save the soup.
5. Add the scallions, ginger, pork slices and suancai into a casserole, and stir-fry.
6. Add the soup, and boil for three minutes.
7. Add salt and chicken essence (optional) before serving.

Culiang Renjia

BY WANG YAN

For people who enjoy late-night snacks, Culiang Renjia is a good choice.

The restaurant is open 24 hours, allowing customers to satisfy their cravings at any time of the day or night.

The restaurant has five locations around the city, with the one near eastern Beijing's Chaoyang Park being the most popular.

Reviewers on Dianping.com praise the restaurant for using fresh and juicy meat. Culiang Renjia is a northeastern Chinese restaurant, and as such, its portions are large, with many saying they are worth the price.

Customers were also impressed with the restaurant's unique decorations. The restaurant was made to look like a traditional northeastern village house. Customers can gather around the dining table and sit on kang bed-stoves to enjoy their food.

Some parlors were named after old countryside nicknames for children, such as "Xiaohua" and "Goudan." People who grew up in northeastern China in the 1960s might enjoy the reminiscent atmosphere.

"I brought my parents here to eat. They enjoyed it very much, and they said it felt like the old times," a reviewer wrote on Dianping.com.

Culiang Renjia might not be the fanciest restaurant, but its down-to-earth dishes and decoration style offer a unique dining experience for families or groups of friends. ■



Photo by dianping.com

Culiang Renjia

10, LiuliTun, Chaoyang district
(010) 51290123